THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though Cinema is a State subject, considering the influence of this medium on masses, the Union Government have from time to time been studying the growth and problems of this sector. Necessary steps are initiated by the Government/Groups, etc. In the recent past, a High Powered Committee has studied the problems of the film industry in its entirety and have made a number of recommendations for affording reliefs concessions to this sector. A number of recommendations pertain to State Governments as the matters fall entirely within their jurisdiction and the implementation is being pursued with them, vigorously at the highest levels in the Government.

(c) The present frequency is considered adequate.

(d) Three.

(e) No, Sir. Considering all relevant factors, the number is not low.

Priority for Setting up of Electronic Exchanges

3942. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of preparing priority list for setting up of electronic exchanges;

(b) whether priority is being accorded to replace the other type of exchanges which are not working at all or percentage of their working capacity has gone down; and

(c) whether priority will be given to those places where construction of buildings for electronic exchange has already been completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are various factors which are considered while preparing priority list for setting up of electronic exchange namely;

1. Replacement of manual exchanges,

2. State Capitals, Distt. Headquarters etc.

3. Places of Strategic importance like N.E., Punjab, J & K etc.,

4. Year of allotment of equipment,

5. Uniform distribution of equipment to various stations in the network,

6. Availability of infrastructure like building, air-conditioning plant etc.

7. Replacement of life expired and worn out exchanges etc. etc.,

(b) Yes, Sir. Due consideration is also given for replacement of life expired and worn out equipments which have been approved for scrapping by the competent Authority.

(c) Yes Sir. Due consideration is also given to set up exchanges on priority where buildings are available.

[*English*]

Telephones to all Panchayats in Ramanathapuram District Tamil Nadu

3943. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: